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District  
Council

# *Report*

*on the*

*Health and Sanitary Circumstances  
of the District*

*for the year ended*

*31st December, 1961*

*Medical Officer of Health*

L. RICH, M.B., CH.B., M.R.C.O.G., D.P.H.  
11 WEST STREET, CONGLETON. Telephone 3655/6

*Senior Public Health Inspector*  
N. A. ROGERS, M.A.P.H.I.



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To the Chairman and Members  
of the Sandbach Urban District Council

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Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report for the year 1961 on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the Urban District of Sandbach.

There was a small fall in the Estimated Population despite the increase of births over deaths.

Attention is drawn to the complete absence of mortality caused by infectious disease. Thirty years ago these diseases would have accounted for the majority of the deaths. This has been brought about by the great improvement in the way we live. Our houses are better constructed with modern facilities; overcrowding is largely a thing of the past. The standard of child care, from infancy to school leaving, has reached a level never thought possible 100 years ago. The general level of knowledge concerning adequate food requirements, together with the supervision our food, including meat, receives, has also made a notable contribution to the change. Finally the most important causes are the very great advances made in medical science, bringing out new and improved preventive agents and better medicaments for the control and eradication of established disease.

However, before we become too complacent, I would draw your attention to the heavy outbreak of Measles that occurred during the year. This disease is most distressing and although there has been no mortality it can cause permanent lung damage and other serious complications. Recent trials with a Measles vaccine have been promising; still more work remains to be done with it before it is perfected. However, when it becomes available another great and dangerous disease should be eliminated. In this respect I would draw your attention to the comparative rarity of Whooping Cough. In the pre-war days large epidemics of measles were frequently accompanied by similar epidemics of Whooping Cough. Due however to the immunisation programme which protects infants and school children simultaneously against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus, Whooping Cough as an epidemic disease is now a thing of the past. It is hoped, too, that it will soon be possible to declare that Poliomyelitis is a rare disease. The new oral vaccine is receiving almost 100% acceptance. It is both safe and very effective.

I have asked the Senior Public Health Inspector to carry out a review on the houses in the Urban District in order to find out those dwellings which are without certain amenities considered in modern times as essential to healthy living. These are the presence of (1) a hot water supply; (2) a fixed bath; (3) a wash-basin; (4) proper food storage facilities; (5) an internal water closet.



Of the 3,490 dwelling units in the Urban District :

- (1) 511 have no hot water supply. This figure excludes those dwellings in which an instantaneous water heater has been fixed over the sink.
- (2) 698 are without a fixed bath.
- (3) 733 have no hand wash basin.
- (4) 702 are without proper food storage accommodation. These are made up of those dwellings which have no facilities at all plus those having unventilated food cupboards under the stairs.
- (5) 1092 are without internal water closets. Water closets have been regarded as external if the householders have to step into the open air from the house to the Closet. Included in the figure of 1092 are 144 pre-1939 Council Houses where the W.C. is incorporated in the main building but is approached from the yard. On the other hand where the closet opens into the rear porch and is entered without going into the open air this is regarded as an internal W.C. It is also a fact that many external closets are approached from a common yard so that the minimum of privacy exists.

Opportunities for improving houses, with assistance of financial grants, have existed for several years. Unfortunately many owners, particularly where the houses are tenanted, have not availed themselves of the benefits offered in the various Housing Acts. In my view the time has now come when the Housing Acts should be so amended as to make the provision of these basic amenities compulsory and that if the owners of properties will not or cannot carry out the work this should be done by the Housing Authority.

At all times I have received helpful advice and guidance from the Clerk, Mr. Skeath, and I thank him and the members of his staff for their courtesy and help.

To Mr. N. A. Rogers, the Senior Public Health Inspector, and to Mr. H. J. Rees, the Engineer and Surveyor, I am grateful for their contributions to this report.

I beg to remain,

Your obedient servant,

**L RICH,**

Medical Officer of Health

The figures in brackets are for the year 1960  
to enable comparisons to be made

# STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

## Extracts from Vital Statistics

Estimated Population ... .. 9910 (9960)

### Births

	<i>Total</i>		<i>Male</i>		<i>Female</i>	
Live Births—						
Legitimate ...	132	(125)	75	(65)	57	(60)
Illegitimate ...	7	(8)	6	(5)	1	(3)
Still Births—						
Legitimate ...	10	(3)	4	(2)	6	(1)
Illegitimate ...	—	(—)	—	(—)	—	(—)
Live birth rate per 1000 estimated average population mid-1961 ... ..					14.0	(13.3)
Live birth rate for England and Wales per 1000 of the population ... ..					17.4	(17.1)
Still birth rate per 1000 total (live and still) births ... ..					67.1	(22.0)
Still birth rate for England and Wales per 1000 total (live and still) births ... ..					18.7	(19.7)
Still birth rate per 1000 total population ...					1.0	(.3)
Still birth rate for England and Wales per 1000 total population ... ..					.33	(.34)

### Infantile Mortality

The total number of deaths is shown as follows :

	<i>Total</i>		<i>Male</i>		<i>Female</i>	
Legitimate ...	4	(4)	4	(3)	—	(1)
Illegitimate ...	—	(—)	—	(—)	—	(—)
Infantile mortality rate per 1000 live births...					28.7	(30.0)
Infantile mortality rate for England and Wales					21.4	(21.7)
Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births ... ..					30.3	(32.0)
Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births ... ..					0	(0)

### Deaths

	<i>Total</i>		<i>Male</i>		<i>Female</i>	
Deaths (all ages) ...	122	(117)	63	(68)	59	(49)
Death rate per 1000 estimated average population ... ..					13.4	(12.6)
Death rate for England and Wales per 1000 of population ... ..					12.0	(11.5)

The following table shows the deaths from all causes within the district during the year.

CAUSE							Total	Male	F'le
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
2.	Tuberculosis, other forms of	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
3.	Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
6.	Meningococcal infection	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
7.	Acute poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
8.	Measles	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	1
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	...	...	3	—	3
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	...	...	8	1	7
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
16.	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	3	2	1
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	...	...	12	3	9
18.	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	...	...	20	12	8
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
20.	Other heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	25	14	11
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	1
22.	Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	3	1	2
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	4	4	—
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	6	5	1
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	—
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	—
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	...	...	23	13	10
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	...	...	3	2	1
34.	All other accidents	...	...	...	...	...	2	—	2
35.	Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	1
36.	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
TOTAL							122	63	59

Deaths from Puerperal and Maternal causes :

Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	(0)
Other Maternal causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	(0)
Maternal mortality rate per 1000 live and still births							0	(0)



# GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH FOR THE AREA

## Care of Mothers and Young Children

Health Visitors :

Miss L. Jacks, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.

Miss M. E. Slack, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.I.D.N., H.V.

Ashfields Clinic, Platt Avenue, Sandbach

Telephone : Sandbach 970

We now have had a full year of operating in the new Clinic and I cannot speak too highly of all the benefits derived from working under such excellent conditions. It is certain that the facilities available are highly appreciated by the Public of Sandbach.

We are particularly fortunate in Sandbach of having such a consistant and hard working band of voluntary workers under the leadership of Mrs. Collins. The friendly atmosphere created by these ladies week by week does much to facilitate the work of the Infant Welfare Clinic.

### Statistics

	New cases			Total Attendances			No. of Clinics held	Cases seen by Doctor	Average per Clinic seen by Doctor
	0-1	1-2	2-5	0-1	1-2	2-5			
Sandbach	171	—	—	1979	617	737	102	965	18.9
Welfare Centre	(122)	(—)	(—)	(1890)	(697)	(803)	(102)	(823)	(16.1)

### Special Clinics for under 5

	New Cases	Total Attendances	No. of Clinics held	Average per clinic
Ophthalmic Clinic ... ..	23 (15)	136 (118)	37 (34)	3.6 (3.4)
E.N.T. Clinic ... ..	11 (2)	15 (2)	12 (5)	1.2 (1.4)

## Special Clinics for School Children

	New Cases	Total Attendances	No. of Clinics held	Average per clinic
Ophthalmic Clinic ... ..	104 (110)	797 (698)	38 (35)	20.9 (19.9)
E.N.T. Clinic ... ..	50 (11)	84 (21)	12 (5)	7.0 (4.2)

## Preparation Class

	New Cases	Total Attendances	No. of Clinics held	Average per clinic
Preparation Class ... ..	77 (68)	545 (506)	50 (52)	10.9 (9.7)

## Welfare Foods sold — 1961

Distribution Centre	National Full Cream	Dried Milk Half Cream	A. & D. Tablets	Cod Liver Oil	Orange Juice
Welfare Centre, Sandbach ...	57 (32)	— (—)	— (—)	50 (78)	232 (345)
Council Offices, Sandbach ...	1263 (1735)	14 (14)	761 (777)	347 (434)	2319 (3865)

## Midwifery and Home Nursing

Midwifery and home nursing in the town is carried out by the following nurses :

Beatty, M. (full time)	5 Coronation Crescent, Sandbach	Sandbach 731
Hoyle, I. (Mrs.) (in conjunction with Home Nursing Duties)	9 Offley Avenue, Sandbach	Sandbach 852
Gerrard, E. E. (in conjunction with Home Nursing Duties)	647 Crewe Road, Wheelock	Sandbach 281
Wainwright, M. (Mrs.) (in conjunction with Home Nursing Duties)	87 Platt Avenue, Sandbach	Sandbach 256

Once again it has been a busy and successful year for home nursing and midwifery services and not a single complaint was received.



Births

Hospital		Home		Private Nursing Home	
Live	Still	Live	Still	Live	Still
97	7	49	—	—	—
(104)	(5)	(37)	(—)	(—)	(—)

It will be noted that the total number of births occurring in hospital and at home do not agree exactly with the figures of the Registrar General. This is because the figures above are meant to represent the work done by our nurses both before and after the birth in the hospital and at home. There are several women who come to Sandbach to have their babies who are not permanent residents and similarly permanent residents of Sandbach may go away to other areas.

The Registrar General’s figures are the final adjustment made and refer specifically to Sandbach residents.

Meals on Wheels

Once again the work of this service has proceeded at a high level. We are indeed grateful to all the Voluntary Workers of the W.V.S. who organise and carry on this service week after week without a break.

In addition to providing the meals so generously supplied to us by Fodens Limited, numerous occasions arise when additional help is given. We are also grateful to the Sandbach Co-operative Society who help out with the meals when Fodens are on holiday.

Vaccination and Immunisation

Statistics

Diphtheria Immunisation

Pre-school children ... ..	3	(—)
School children ... ..	4	(1)
	7	(1)
Reinforcing injections ... ..	158	(73)

Whooping Cough Immunisation

Pre-school children ... ..	—	(—)
School children ... ..	—	(2)
	—	(2)
Reinforcing injections ... ..	—	(—)

Combined Immunisation (Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus)

Pre-school children ... ..	127	(152)
School children ... ..	36	(10)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	163	(162)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Reinforcing injections ... ..	31	(—)

Combined Immunisation (Diphtheria, Whooping Cough)

Pre-school children ... ..	—
School children ... ..	—
	<hr/>
	—
	<hr/>
Reinforcing injections ... ..	—

Combined Immunisation (Diphtheria, Tetanus)

Pre-school children ... ..	13
School children ... ..	74
	<hr/>
	87
	<hr/>
Reinforcing injections ... ..	79

Primary Vaccination

Pre-school children ... ..	81	(77)
School children ... ..	4	(14)
Adults ... ..	16	(1)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	101	(92)
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Re-Vaccination

Pre-school children ... ..	2	(2)
School children ... ..	4	(4)
Adults ... ..	27	(15)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	33	(21)
	<hr/>	<hr/>

**Poliomyelitis Vaccination**

It is not possible to separate the figures in respect of each County District and the table below shows the figures for the whole of South East Cheshire

				<i>4th injections in 1961</i>	<i>Total 4th injections</i>	<i>3rd injections in 1961</i>	<i>Total 3rd injections</i>	<i>2nd injections in 1961</i>	<i>Total 2nd injections</i>	<i>1st injections in 1961</i>
Children born in 1943-61				... .. 1006	1006	1059	12139	1501	14811	1496
Persons born in 1933-42				... .. 32	32	331	4407	504	6619	513
Persons born before 1933 up to the age of 40				... .. 85	85	690	3151	992	3539	1004
Others				... .. 49	49	174	906	393	1252	387
Totals				1172	1172	2254	20603	3390	26221	3400

### Public Health Laboratory Service

We have continued to use the new Laboratory at Chester and I should like to pay tribute to the services given and the help and advice we receive from the Pathologist in charge.

### Ambulance and Sitting-Case Car Transport

The facilities of the new Ambulance Station have proved a boon to the operating of the service. A high standard of vehicle turn-out and maintenance is now possible and facilities and amenities are provided for the staff to which they are entitled.

Arrangements have been made to draw petrol from the Council's pump as and when necessary.

### Domestic Help Service

Statistics relating to the Home Help Service provided in Sandbach during 1961 are as follows :

Home Helps employed during 1961

Full time	...	...	...	...	...	—	(—)
Temporary	...	...	...	...	...	21	(29)
Casual	...	...	...	...	...	8	(7)
						29	(36)



### Home Helps employed at December 31st, 1961

Full time	...	...	...	...	...	—	(—)
Temporary	...	...	...	...	...	14	(19)
Casual	...	...	...	...	...	2	(3)
						<hr/> 16	<hr/> (22)

### Applications received during 1961

Confinement	...	...	...	...	...	3	(2)
Sickness	...	...	...	...	...	7	(8)
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	—	(—)
Aged and Infirm	...	...	...	...	...	6	(2)
						<hr/> 16	<hr/> (12)

### Cases attended during 1961

Confinement	...	...	...	...	...	2	(1)
Sickness	...	...	...	...	...	10	(9)
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	—	(—)
Aged and Infirm	...	...	...	...	...	16	(16)
						<hr/> 28	<hr/> (26)

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

### Water Supply

This district is supplied with River Dee water from the Hurleston Treatment Works which is of moderate hardness.

### Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

During 1961 the following scheme was completed :

Abandonment of the Cookesmere Lane Sewage Works, construction of Pumping Station and Pumping Main and the laying of sewers between Sweettooth Lane and the New Pumping Station.

Work on the following schemes proceeded during the year :

- (a) Abandonment of the Elworth Sewage Disposal Works construction of Pumping Station, Pumping Main and sewers to convey the sewage to Hind Heath Sewage Works and the enlargement of the Hind Heath Sewage Works.

(b) The enlargement of the sewer between Well Bank and the Old Sandbach Sewage Works and ancillary works in connection therewith.

**Housing**

During 1961 work proceeded on the construction of three blocks of three storey flats comprising 36 flats, 24 of which were completed during the year. Also completed in 1961 were two bungalows for the aged and/or infirm persons.

During the year 103 dwellings were completed by private development.

**PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER  
INFECTIOUS DISEASE**

The following table gives the number of cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year.

**NOTIFIABLE DISEASES  
(other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1961**

DISEASE	AGE DISTRIBUTION													Total cases notified	Cases admitted to hospital
	Under 1	1- 1-	2- 2-	3- 3-	4- 4-	5- 5-	10- 10-	15- 15-	20- 20-	35- 35-	45- 45-	65 & over			
Measles	6	35	34	39	46	160	16	6	—	—	—	—	342	—	
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	2	5	—	
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	
Whooping Cough	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	

**Tuberculosis**

For comparative purposes, I have recorded the notifications of Tuberculosis during 1961 in conjunction with the notifications of this disease received each year since 1952.

# Notifications 1962 to 1961

	1952		1953		1954		1955		1956		1957		1958		1959		1960		1961	
	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP
MALE																				
Up to 1 year																				
1- 4																				
5-14		1																		1
15-24	1				1		1		1											
25-34					1								1		1					
35-44											2									
45-54					1															
55-64			2						1		1									
65 and over																				
FEMALE																				
Up to 1 year																				
1- 4																				
5-14															1					
15-24	1	1			1	1						1								
25-34	1		1		1				1		1		1						1	1
35-44			1								1									
45-54																				
55-64																				
65 and over									1											
TOTAL	3	2	4	—	5	1	1	—	4	—	5	1	2	—	2	—	—	—	1	2



# Deaths 1952 to 1961

	1952		1953		1954		1955		1956		1957		1958		1959		1960		1961	
	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP
MALE																				
Up to 1 year																				
1- 4																				
5-14																				
15-24																				
25-34																				
35-44																				
45-54			1						1											
55-64	1				1								1							
65 and over																				
FEMALE																				
Up to 1 year																				
1- 4																				
5-14																				
15-24																				
25-34																				
35-44			1																	
45-54																				
55-64																				
65 and over																				
TOTAL	1	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

## Cases on Register at December 31st, 1961

			Up to								65 &	Total
			1 yr.	1-4	5-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	over	
Male	Pulmonary	... ..	—	—	—	3	2	4	5	1	2	17
Female	Pulmonary	... ..	—	—	—	2	3	3	1	—	1	10
Male	Non-Pulmonary	...	—	—	1	1	1	—	1	1	—	5
Female	Non-Pulmonary	...	—	—	—	1	3	—	—	1	—	5

**The following sections of this report have been compiled by the  
Senior Public Health Inspector, Mr. N. A. Rogers**

### Public Health Inspection

Number of Inspections and Visits during 1961 ... ..	2011
Number of Informal Notices served during 1961 ...	66
Number of Informal Notices complied with during 1961	63
Number of Informal Notices outstanding at 31/12/61	6
Number of Statutory Notices served during 1961 ...	2
Number of Statutory Notices complied with during 1961	3
Number of Statutory Notices outstanding at 31/12/61	1

The Council authorised Court Proceedings in two instances of property disrepair and in one instance concerning the non-provision of sanitary accommodation for workmen on a building site ; but in each of these cases the persons concerned complied with the Council's requirements before summonses could be issued, and no further action was taken.

## PUBLIC CLEANSING

### Refuse Collection

The Refuse Collection service is at the stage of development where existing staff and equipment are somewhat inadequate yet it would probably be unreasonable at this point to claim the employment of an additional refuse team and vehicle. Nevertheless, the number of houses in the Urban District continues to increase. 98 new dwellings were constructed in 1960, whilst only 7 unfit houses were demolished ; the figures for 1961 were 129 and 13 respectively. So that in the last two years there has been a net increase of 207 dwellings, and in terms of refuse collection this would represent two

days' work for one man. There is also an increasing tendency nowadays for individual households to provide more than one dust-bin, and this naturally increases the work of the collectors. Under the present scheme, the household refuse collection cycle is  $8\frac{1}{2}$  days when conditions are entirely favourable, but sickness, holidays, mechanical breakdowns and adverse weather all contribute at various times of the year to a worsening of this cycle. It can be said, though not with much pride, that the cycle has never yet exceeded 14 days.

At the beginning of 1961 when the Council were about to implement a 5-day working week, the time was considered opportune for discussion with the refuse workmen on the question of a bonus scheme whereby the Council hoped to encourage the men to increase their earnings by speeding up the bin collection. However, the employees rejected the various offers made on this basis, and the only agreement which could be reached was to permit overtime working on Saturday mornings at the appropriate pay rate—thus making a farce of their claim for a shorter working week.

## **Refuse Disposal**

The Council's refuse tip at Malkins Bank is still in use, though from time to time advantage is taken of requests made by local farmers for filling of holes and depressions on their land.

It is fortunate that the Malkins Bank Tip is in a comparatively remote spot, and, therefore, few complaints are received of nuisances arising ; but uncontrolled crude tipping, as practised there, is outmoded and unhygienic, and the time is near when the Council should consider the use of machinery for levelling and covering the tipped refuse.

## **Supply of Dustbins**

The Council does not operate a Dustbin Scheme under Section 75(3) of the Public Health Act 1936, but a supply of dustbins is kept for sale on request. 93 properties were supplied in this way.

## **Conservancy**

Pail closets are emptied weekly by Council labour, disposal taking place at the sewage works. 17 houses are thus served and 7 pails from other types of premises are also emptied. It may be mentioned that none of the premises involved in the scheme is so situated as would enable it to be connected to the sewerage system.



## Salvage

After consideration of a report by the Public Health Inspector in March, 1961, the Council decided that the salvage of waste-paper was no longer a sufficiently attractive proposition to warrant the diversion of labour from other services. Accordingly, the separate collection and sale of waste-paper has been discontinued, and the only commodity now salvaged is cardboard cartons which are sold to a local engineering firm for packaging material. 5,114 boxes were thus disposed of for the sum of £63/18/6.

In the early months of the year before the discontinuance of waste-paper salvage 9½ tons were sold for £69/8/0.

## Public Conveniences

It is difficult to make any original comment. For several years it has been necessary to record a story of continual misuse and malicious damage ; the year under review has continued in the same vein. The only consolation is that Sandbach is not unique in this respect, for many Local Authorities appear to be having the same trouble.

## Rodent Control

A trained Rodent Operator working under the supervision of the Public Health Inspector spends approximately half of his time on these duties.

The following treatments were carried out during the year :

Business Premises	...	...	...	...	93
Agricultural Properties	...	...	...		61
Dwelling Houses	...	...	...	...	38
Local Authority Undertakings	...	...			6
					<hr/> 198 <hr/>

By means of annual contracts the Council deals with 16 commercial and 10 agricultural properties, and under this system early reports made by the occupiers enable the premises to be dealt with before major infestations arise. The persons concerned appreciate that this is the most sensible and economical way of dealing with the rat and mouse problem.

The sewers throughout the district have been tested for rat infestation, but very little evidence was found.

## **Offensive Trades**

There is only one business in the area—bone boiling—which is classed as an Offensive Trade. In view of the nature of the business comparatively little nuisance is created. An excessive amount of smell gave rise to complaints from nearby residents at one period of the year, and the firm has now ordered certain new plant to deal with this trouble. The firm has entered into an annual agreement with the Council for the destruction of rats.

## **Moveable Dwellings**

The Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960, not only produced a fresh procedure for dealing with caravan applications, but also provided for a general review by the Planning Authority of all caravanning facilities. The outcome was that Site Licences were granted by this Council in respect of three individual sites each housing only one caravan, and also in respect of a residential site on which it was intended to station 25 caravans. The licence conditions governing the latter site were mainly compiled in conjunction with the developer, and it was this prior consultation which resulted in the elimination of all communal facilities. The site is still in process of preparation, but it is intended that only caravans of the most modern type with self-contained water closets and bath facilities shall be permitted. The developer promises a site of which the Council can be proud, and if this is fulfilled, it will indeed be an achievement.

## **Agriculture (Safety, Health and Welfare Provisions) Act, 1956**

During the year a survey was made of the 29 agricultural holdings in the Urban District. Every unit now has suitable and sufficient sanitary accommodation for the workers employed. Informal action secured improvements in several instances and it did not become necessary to serve any statutory notices.

## **Atmospheric Pollution**

Work in this sphere has been mainly of a routine nature during 1961. The Salt Works which have been reported upon in previous Annual Reports appear mainly to have overcome the smoke emission from the salt-pan furnaces, but it has recently become necessary to issue warnings in respect of excessive discharges from the boiler chimneys. The firm concerned will probably re-organise the boiler-house and install a new system of firing in the near future.

The Council have not yet taken any steps towards the establishment of Smoke Control Areas.



**Noise Abatement Act, 1960**

The introduction of a specific Act to deal with noise gave this nuisance more prominence and created a much greater interest amongst the general public.

Apart from a number of minor domestic complaints, 5 cases of noise nuisance were dealt with during the year, 3 being associated with industrial undertakings and the other 2 emanating from private premises. In 3 of the cases an abatement of the nuisance was secured, whilst action in the other two instances proved inconclusive and efforts were still proceeding at the end of the year.

**HOUSING**

**Unfit Houses**

**(a) Individual Houses**

Number of Demolition Orders made ... ..	—
Number of houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ..	13
Number of houses demolished as a result of informal action ... ..	—
Number of houses closed in pursuance of undertakings given by owners ... ..	1

**(b) Clearance Areas**

Number of Areas declared during year ... ..	—
Number of Orders made during the year ... ..	—
Number of houses demolished ... ..	—
Number of families rehoused ... ..	5
Number of persons rehoused ... ..	17

It will be seen from the above figures that no new Demolition or Clearance procedure was started during 1961. The only activity in this field consisted of the demolition of 13 houses on which Individual Orders had previously been made, and the rehousing of occupiers from the Hawk Street Clearance Area in readiness for demolition.

In two instances where the question of rehousing from unfit houses was of a rather special nature exceptional action was taken. In the one case the Council purchased a private cottage for the rehousing of an aged, infirm widow who had lived in that district



for many years and was disturbed at the thought of being transferred to a modern Council dwelling. In the other case a sub-standard house was purchased to provide intermediate accommodation for a family who might have found it difficult to adjust themselves to the amenities of a modern house.

As stated in last year's Report, a Public Local Enquiry concerning the Hawk Street Compulsory Purchase Order was held in September, 1960. The Minister's verdict was not issued until May, 1961. Despite the fact that the Ministry Inspector who held the Enquiry and personally inspected the houses reported that in his opinion the objector's house was unfit and had rightly been included in the Order, nevertheless, the Minister, in his confirmation of the Order, decided to exclude this one house and recommended the Council to deal with it under Part II of the Housing Act. Improvements and repairs to the house have since been carried out by the owner, but there can be no doubt that the retention of this particular property will prejudice the satisfactory redevelopment of the area.

## Rehousing

The following is a statement of the position with regard to the Register of Applications for tenancies of Council houses at the end of 1961 :

Applicants on Waiting List for less than 1 year ... ..	94
Applicants on Waiting List between 1 and 2 years ...	13
Applicants on Waiting List between 2 and 3 years ...	5
Applicants on Waiting List over 3 years ... ..	2
Total number of "live" applicants on current register	<hr/> 114 <hr/>

41 applicants for Council-house tenancies were rehoused during 1961, and 5 families were rehoused from condemned houses.

In addition to the ordinary register of applications, there were also 68 applicants on the Bungalow waiting list at the end of 1961, 4 cases having been accommodated during the year.

## Repairs

The number of complaints concerning defects in houses has fallen substantially in recent years. It is thought that the Rent Act, 1957, has assisted in creating this position, and it should also be borne in mind that Sandbach has a comparatively high proportion of owner-occupied houses.

Number of unfit houses in which defects were remedied as a result of informal action ... ..	17
Number of unfit houses in which defects were remedied as a result of formal action :	
(a) by owner under Public Health Acts ... ..	3
(b) by Local Authority under Public Health Acts	—
(c) under Housing Acts ... ..	—

### Certificates of Disrepair

The Scheme for Certificates of Disrepair served a particular need for two or three years after the passing of the Rent Act, 1957, but very little use has been made of this legislation in recent months, as will be seen from the following figures for 1961 :

Number of Applications received ... ..	1
Number of Applications approved ... ..	—
Number of Applications withdrawn ... ..	—
Number of Applications not approved ... ..	1
Number of Certificates of Disrepair issued ... ..	—
Number of Undertakings given ... ..	—
Number of Undertakings accepted ... ..	—
Number of Applications for Cancellations of Certificates	1
Number of Applications for Cancellation approved ...	1
Number of Applications for Cancellation rejected ...	—
Number of Objections by Tenants to Cancellation ...	—
Number of Objections not upheld by Council ... ..	—

### Improvement Grants

During the year Standard Grants were approved in respect of 24 houses, but there were no applications for Discretionary Grants. Of the Grants made 18 were in respect of owner-occupied houses. Although the idea of providing modern amenities in all structurally good houses has everything to commend it, the Grant scheme as such has not proved a success in Sandbach because in the main only separate individual houses are receiving the advantage. In only one instance has a block of tenanted houses been dealt with in this way, and it is surely to this type of property that the scheme of grant aid is mainly directed. It is envisaged that at some future date, if



propaganda and official encouragement have not proved successful, the Government will probably introduce compulsory powers for the modernising of suitable properties to prevent them from becoming future clearance-type houses.

It is of interest to note that in the case of those Standard Grants paid during 1961 the actual total amount, based on half the cost of the work in each case, was only 55% of the maximum grants which could have been payable under the Act. In other words, although under the scheme an applicant could spend £310 on providing the five specified amenities, and thus become entitled to the maximum grant of £155, in practice it is found that the average expenditure per house is about £170, involving a grant of £85.

**Standard Grants — 1961**

Number of Applications received ... ..	24
Number of Grants approved ... ..	24
Number of Grants disapproved ... ..	—
Total amount of maximum Grants payable ... ..	£2595

**FOOD**

**Slaughtering and Meat Inspection**

There is still only one licensed slaughterhouse in the Sandbach Urban District. The Council relinquished the tenancy of this slaughterhouse on February 1st, 1961, and the premises were taken over by a private concern. During the following months a considerable amount of improvement work was carried out to the property and in due course the Ministry appointed January 1st, 1962 as the day by which the slaughterhouse must comply with the Construction Regulations. At the end of the year practically all the improvements and alterations had been effected and the Council were contemplating renewing the Slaughterhouse Licence.

No further steps have been taken by the local butcher who was proposing to renovate his disused slaughterhouse, and the occupier of the licensed slaughterhouse mentioned above has made provision for any of the local butchers who wish to make use of his services. However, the majority of the meat produced at this slaughterhouse is undoubtedly for “export” to the cities.



## Meat Inspected and Condemned

				Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Total
<hr/>									
Animals slaughtered and									
Inspected	...	...	...	876	1268	308	4237	1544	8233
<i>(There were no horses slaughtered in the Urban District during 1961)</i>									

### CONDEMNATIONS

*All diseases except Tuberculosis :*

Whole carcasses condemned ... ..	4	59	10	14	8	95
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ... ..	141	935	7	145	37	1265
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis ... ..	16%	78%	5%	4%	3%	16%

*Tuberculosis only :*

Whole carcasses condemned ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ... ..	19	69	4	—	52	144
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ... ..	2%	5%	1%	—	3%	2%

36 cases of localised *Cysticercus Bovis* were detected during the year

### Analysis in lb. of Condemned Meat

	<i>Beef</i>	<i>Veal</i>	<i>Mutton</i>	<i>Pork</i>
Tuberculosis ... ..	1131	20	—	709
Parasites and Cysts ...	9368	2	233	2
Angioma ... ..	1458	—	—	—
Dropsy ... ..	17653	—	223	—
Actinomycosis ... ..	241	—	—	—
Septicaemia ... ..	1596	—	—	30
Fever ... ..	1154	135	60	206
Pleurisy and Pneumonia	638	—	—	53
Gangrene ... ..	150	—	—	—
Tumours ... ..	1226	—	77	—
Abscesses ... ..	1600	60	15	254
Emaciation ... ..	—	54	176	—
Osteomyelitis ... ..	—	—	—	105
Immaturity ... ..	—	75	—	—
Inflammation ... ..	12	35	4	80
Leukaemia ... ..	390	—	—	—
Misc. and Injuries ...	2445	34	130	155
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	39062	415	918	1594
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

It is interesting to observe the trend in the comparative amounts of beef condemned in the last three years :

#### Average amount condemned per Beast Slaughtered

	<i>All Diseases</i>	<i>Tuberculosis only</i>
1959 ...	24 lb.	8 lb.
1960 ...	22 lb.	4 lb.
1961 ...	18 lb.	0.5 lb.

Despite the fact that a large proportion of the cattle now dealt with are poor quality cows for the “export” trade, the incidence of tuberculosis has decreased by 50% as compared with the previous year.

### Food Hygiene

Very little routine inspection of Food Premises has been carried out during the year under review owing to pressure of other work.

In respect of two of the principal restaurants in the town it became necessary to insist on substantial hygiene improvements. At the end of the year one of these restaurants was about to close down and the Council were contemplating prosecuting the proprietor of the other establishment for contravention of the Food Hygiene Regulations.

Further progress has been made in the construction of food shops in the Market Hall, and all traders selling open food are now well accommodated.

The number of Food Premises (in broad categories) in the Urban District is as follows :

Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Butchers	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Cafes	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Clubs	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Confectioners	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Fishmongers	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Fried Fish	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Grocers	...	...	...	...	...	...	55
Public Houses, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
School Canteens	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Works Canteens	...	...	...	...	...	...	10

### Unsound Food

The following unsound foods were condemned upon voluntary surrender :



100 tins Meat	...	...	...	...	519 $\frac{1}{4}$ lb.
181 tins Vegetables	...	...	...	...	152 lb.
308 tins Fruit	...	...	...	...	426 lb.
41 tins Fish	...	...	...	...	27 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.
12 tins Syrup	...	...	...	...	18 lb.
1 tin Treacle	...	...	...	...	1 lb.
8 tins Milk	...	...	...	...	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.
1 tin Cream	...	...	...	...	1 $\frac{1}{4}$ lb.
2 tins Soup	...	...	...	...	1 $\frac{3}{4}$ lb.
3 Packets Pancake Mixture	...	...	...	...	1 $\frac{1}{4}$ lb.
Biscuits	...	...	...	...	58 lb.
					<hr/>
					1210 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.
					<hr/>

## Milk

The legal functions with regard to licensing of dealers were by way of the Milk Special Designations Regulations, 1960, transferred to the County Council as from January 1st, 1961.

The position in December, 1961, with regard to licensing was as follows :

Dealers' Licences to sell T.T. Milk	...	...	13
Dealers' Licences to sell Pasteurised Milk			13
Dealers' Licences to sell Sterilised Milk	...		14

## Ice Cream

Fifty-five premises are registered by the Local Authority for the sale of Ice Cream. Only wrapped ice cream was sold from these premises and no ice cream is known to have been manufactured in the district during the year.

## Other Registered Premises

Thirteen premises are registered by the Local Authority under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, for the preparation of cooked meats, etc. and ten premises are registered for fish frying.

## Factories

The following table indicates the position for 1961 :

Particulars	No. on Register	No. of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities...	13	6	—	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority ...	75	30	4	—
(3) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises) ... ..	34	42	1	—
TOTAL ...	122	78	5	—

As a result of much pressure on the firms concerned some improvement has been effected in the standard of sanitary accommodation provided on building sites. In one instance it became necessary to proceed to the point of issuing a summons for failure to provide proper facilities, but at the last moment the firm concerned decided to comply with the Council's requirements, and the matter was not taken any further.









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